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MATTERS RELATED TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL, NON-GOVERNMENTAL, GOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

UNIDO cooperation with non-governmental organizations and applications from non-governmental organizations for consultative status

Note by the Director-General

Summary

Reports on UNIDO cooperation with non-governmental organizations and provides information on the following four non-governmental organizations applying for consultative status with UNIDO: Austrian Senior Experts Pool (ASEP), International Network for Environmental Management (INEM), International Technology Information Center (InterTec) and Nimtech.

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Introduction

1. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are playing an increasingly important role in the decision-making process at the international, regional and national levels. Their role as agents for development and change is fully recognized by UNIDO, which is in the process of expanding its cooperation with various types of NGOs in the industrial sector in developed and developing countries, as well as in countries with economies in transition.

2. UNIDO cooperation with NGOs is an interdivisional activity and concerns all priority areas of UNIDO. Sustainable industrial development was the subject chosen as the first step in strengthening cooperation with professional, business and environmental NGOs and led to the holding of the NGO Forum on Cleaner Industrial Production in Vienna from 30 November to 1 December 1995.[1] The recommendations of the Forum were presented to the sixth session of the General Conference and resulted in the adoption of two resolutions: GC.6/Res.7 on environmentally sustainable industrial development: cleaner industrial production, and GC.6/Res.16 on matters related to non-governmental organizations.

I. UNIDO COOPERATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

3. In accordance with General Conference resolution GC.6/Res.16, UNIDO is strengthening its cooperation with international, regional and national NGOs in developing and developed countries as well as in countries with economies in transition.

4. The network of NGOs is being expanded according to UNIDO priority areas and to this end a database on NGOs active in the industrial field is being compiled to identify the best possible partners in the respective areas. NGOs working with UNIDO include international and national associations active in the industrial sector, chambers of commerce and industry, trade unions, organizations working in the field of cooperatives, federations of consultants and engineers, associations of small- and medium-scale industries, associations of financial institutions, universities, technology centres, and research and development institutes and foundations. They also include other industry-related organizations, such as consumer unions, technical associations and those working in fields such as standardization, energy, environment, industrial information and the role of women in industrial development.

5. Cooperation with NGOs emphasizes partnerships with NGOs acting as counterparts and focal points for UNIDO projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. UNIDO also draws on the services of experts and consultants identified by NGOs and their members for its projects, particularly for projects responding to direct requests from public or private industries in such countries. NGOs contribute experts to UNIDO meetings on specific sectors of industry as well as in the context of workshops and training programmes, and host meetings organized with UNIDO.

6. Joint projects with NGOs cover a wide range of industrial activities. Recent activities included those with the Arab Iron and Steel Union (AISU) in metallurgical industries, with the World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME) in small and medium industry development and with the International Network for Environmental Management (INEM) and the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations (WAITRO) in environment and energy. UNIDO also cooperated with the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW) in a panel discussion at the NGO Forum at Beijing during the Fourth World Conference on Women. As regards investment promotion, UNIDO has co-operated with the Forum Francophone des Affaires in identifying industrial investment projects. Furthermore, with respect to human resources development, UNIDO is developing projects with the Institute of Higher Management (ISG) and is cooperating with the International Union of Technical Associations and Organizations (UATI) in the preparation of the World Congress of Engineering Education and Industry Leaders to be held in Paris from 5 to 6 July 1996 organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNIDO, UATI and another NGO, the World Federation of Engineering Organizations.

Planned activities

Environment and energy

7. Several meetings with NGOs are planned to take place at the national level to create awareness among various actors of our society and to contribute to ecological industrial development. The meetings will be open to representatives from the public and private sectors, including enterprises, financial institutions,

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[1] A summary of the discussions and the final recommendations are contained in the report of the Forum (ID/WG.544/5).

universities, research centres, national and international NGOs as well as international organizations.

8. In April 1996, a follow-up meeting to the NGO Forum on Cleaner Industrial Production will be hosted by the Institute of Higher Management, an NGO in consultative status with UNIDO, at the premises in Paris. The meeting will highlight the recommendations of the Forum with particular emphasis on the expansion of the UNIDO National Cleaner Production Centres and transfer of technology. Details will be provided concerning the development of a UNIDO information system on cleaner industrial production which could be made available to small and medium industries in developing and industrialized countries.

9. Plans are being made to hold a joint meeting in June 1996, at Greater Manchester, United Kingdom, which will be hosted by Nimtech, a non-governmental organization applying for consultative status with UNIDO. At the meeting, practical approaches to implementing the cleaner industrial production concept will be examined, and promoting pollution prevention systems rather than pollution correction technologies (end-of-pipe solutions) will be discussed. The meeting will also serve to establish contacts between firms from developing countries that have already carried out waste minimization audits and have identified profitable cleaner technology investments and firms from industrialized countries that could provide the required technologies and financial resources.

10. Within the context of the thirtieth anniversary of UNIDO, a number of activities on selected subjects are foreseen with Austrian NGOs, industries, universities and research institutions. As regards environment and energy, a follow-up meeting to the NGO Forum on Cleaner Industrial Production is planned, with a view to creating greater awareness of UNIDO activities in cleaner industrial production among Austrian industries, particularly in small- and medium-sized enterprises.

11. A further follow-up to the NGO Forum is the compilation of a directory of NGOs involved in environmentally-sound industrial activities. The directory will focus on principal objectives, areas of experience and training capacities of NGOs. It will also serve as a basis for future networking with NGOs in the implementation of the Forum recommendations.

12. Following the successful UNIDO-funded participation of two business and industry NGOs from Africa and Latin America in the workshop on consultative mechanisms for NGO participation in the Climate Convention held in Geneva on 2 March 1996, UNIDO proposes to strengthen its cooperation with business and industry NGOs concerned with the climate issue. Within the context of the UNIDO energy programme, this cooperation would support the dual role of UNIDO as a worldwide forum for promoting industrial development and for providing technical cooperation services, by establishing useful contacts with major energy-producing and -consuming industries.

Human resources development

13. Linkages between universities and industries will be the topic of a meeting planned for October 1996 with the participation of Austrian NGOs, universities and representatives from the industrial sector. As part of the 30th anniversary celebrations, the meeting will highlight the wide experience of UNIDO in human resources development for industry and will build on the outcome of the World Congress of Engineering Educators and Industry Leaders to be held in Paris in July 1996.

14. With regard to human resources development and training, data on NGO training capabilities and needs will be available through GLOBE-IN (Global Learning Opportunities in Business Education cum Industry), a relational database system being developed by UNIDO.

Industrial information

15. A further activity within the context of the 30th anniversary will take place during the Congress on Globalization of Information organized by an international NGO, the International Federation of Information and Documentation, which will be held at Graz, Austria, from 20 to 25 October 1996. At that time, UNIDO will co-organize a special session on business and industrial information in a globally networked society.

NGO global forum

16. In General Conference resolution GC.6/Res.16, the Director-General is requested to organize, as appropriate, forums for non-governmental organizations on selected priority areas of UNIDO. In that respect, a global NGO forum will be held from 27 to 28 November 1997, immediately prior to the seventh session of the General Conference. Under the theme "industries for the 21st century", NGO inputs at the planning stages of programme development will be facilitated. At the meeting, the new role of UNIDO as a global forum will be highlighted and various perceptions of the role of industrial development in the next century will be reviewed. Identification of specific areas where NGOs could collaborate with or complement UNIDO technical cooperation projects is expected to be an outcome of the forum.

II. APPLICATIONS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH UNIDO

17. In accordance with Article 19.1 (b) of the Constitution of UNIDO and the Guidelines for the Relationship of UNIDO with intergovernmental, governmental, non-governmental and other organizations (decision GC.1/Dec.41), in particular paragraph 17 of the annex thereto, information on four international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) seeking consultative status with UNIDO is circulated to the members of the Board in the annex to the present document. More detailed information on each NGO is available with the Secretariat.

18. Paragraph 17 of the annex to the Guidelines stipulates that the Board shall establish appropriate procedures for reviewing applications from NGOs for consultative status. To facilitate and accelerate its work, the Board may wish to follow the practice established at previous sessions and request the Bureau of the Board to review the applications of, and information on, the four NGOs annexed to the present document and to submit its recommendations to the Board for consideration at its current session.

Annex

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS APPLYING FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS

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The designations employed and the presentation of the material in the present document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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AUSTRIAN SENIOR EXPERTS POOL (ASEP)

Historical background

Established in 1989 in Vienna, Austria, with the objective of improving the industrial structure of developing countries by lending the expertise and know-how of retired business executives to enterprises in those countries.

Statutes

Available.

Structure of governing bodies and administration

Board
President and Chairman of the Board

Activities related to the work of UNIDO

(a) Lending expertise to enterprises in developing countries with respect to research, development and production, quality management and control, finance, organization and administration, marketing and sales;

(b) Carrying out seminars, training courses and lecture programmes;

(c) Providing analytical and operational consulting by analysis, reviewing and suggestions.

Relations with the United Nations and other IGOs

Has applied for consultative status with the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT and plans to cooperate with UNISTAR via the European Senior Services Consortium.

Relations with NGOs

Close contacts with other members of the European Senior Services Consortium; associated with the World Bank Group.

Documentation concerning international character of membership

Not applicable.

Membership

170 retired senior managers.

Address of headquarters

Haus der Industrie
Schwarzenbergplatz 4
A-1031 Vienna
Austria

Tel.: (43-1) 71135-2423
Fax: (43-1) 71135-2425

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (INEM)

Historical background

Established in February 1991 in Germany by three environmental management associations in Austria, Germany and Sweden with the objective of developing and promoting environmental management and cleaner technologies.

Statutes

Available.

Structure of governing bodies and administration

General Members' Meeting
Main Secretariat
Board of Directors

Activities related to the work of UNIDO

(a) Promoting and encouraging the dissemination and application of principles and methods of environmental management, including cleaner production and cleaner technologies, rather than end-of-pipe approaches;

(b) Assisting small- and medium-sized enterprises and the private sector in developing countries and countries in transition in minimizing the environmental impact of industrial operations;

(c) Identifying and promoting partnerships between enterprises, local authorities and academic and research institutions.

Relations with the United Nations and other IGOs

United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Finance Corporation, Global Environment Facility.

Relations with NGOs

International Council of Local Environmental Initiative, International Organization for Standardization, International Association for Cereal Science and Technology, ECO-Counselling Europe, Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft.

Documentation confirming international character of membership

Available.

Membership

34 members or affiliated associations in 29 countries on all five continents.

Address of headquarters

Bahnhofstrasse 36
D-22880 Wedel (Holstein)
Germany

Tel.: (49-4103) 84019
Fax: (49-4103) 13699
E-mail: inem.head@applelink.com

INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION CENTER (INTERTEC)

Historical background

Established in July 1992 in Vienna, Austria, with the objective of promoting the exchange of technological, scientific, commercial and industrial information between the Russian Federation and other countries, and carrying out investment projects on the basis of innovative applied technologies from the Russian Federation and Commonwealth of Independent States.

Statutes

Available.

Structure of governing bodies and administration

General Assembly
Executive Board
Directors

Activities related to the work of UNIDO

(a) Promoting and coordinating the exchange of technologies between the Russian Federation and other countries;

(b) Providing up-to-date information and database records on technologies available in the Russian Federation and CIS;

(c) Promoting and encouraging opportunities, including investment projects and partnership/joint ventures, between the Russian Federation and developing countries;

(d) Promoting and encouraging the exchange of ideas, information and technologies through the Internet and World Wide Web;

(e) Organizing colloquiums, seminars and conferences.

Relations with IGOs and NGOs

Relationships established with more than 200 private and public, national and international IGOs and NGOs in 24 countries.

Documentation confirming international character of membership

Available.

Membership

Chambers of commerce, industries, institutes and research centres in many countries.

Address of headquarters

International Technology Information Center
Brahmsplatz 8/3
A-1040 Vienna
Austria

Tel.: (43-1) 5044091
Fax: (43-1) 5044094

NIMTECH

Historical background

Established in north-west England in 1986, this independent network of industrial and academic organizations specializes in technology transfer activities. It promotes the use of new and improved technology and the commercial development of links between universities and industry. In recent years the network expanded its links to a growing number of developing countries.

Statutes

Available.

Structure of governing bodies and administration

Chairman
Participants' Council
Board
Committees

Activities related to the work of UNIDO

(a) Promoting the development of technical cooperation projects in industrial investment and technology;

(b) Promoting and assisting the conclusion of industrial investment and technology projects between firms in the United Kingdom and in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(c) Encouraging the dissemination of information related to investment and technology by organizing meetings, seminars, workshops and exhibitions;

(d) Providing project management support to fulfil the implementation of technology and investment programmes.

Relations with the United Nations and other IGOs

European Union.

Relations with NGOs

United Kingdom regional technology centres and research and technology organizations, as well as relations with 63 NGOs world-wide.

Membership

Industrial firms, universities and research institutes in the United Kingdom.

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